

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Advisory Action dated December 13, 2004. Because the initial response to the previous Final Office Action was filed within two months of the Final Office Action, the shortened statutory period for responding to the 5 Final Office Action extends to the date of the Advisory Action. Therefore, this Amendment is being submitted with a one month extension fee within the one month period extending from the date of the Advisory Action to January 13, 2005. The current status of the claims is summarized below.

Claims 6, 12, 16-17, 22, and 24-25 are currently amended.
10 Claims 1-5, 8, 13, 15, 18-21, 23, and 26 are cancelled.
Claims 6-7, 9-12, 14, 16-17, 22, and 24-25 are pending in the application after entry of the present Amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

15 The Applicant acknowledges the Office's indication that claims 7-11, 15-17, and 23-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 8, thus placing claim 6 in 20 condition for allowance. Since claims 7 and 9-11 depend from 6, each of claims 7 and 9-11 incorporate the features of claim 6. Therefore, incorporation of claim 8 into claim 6 will also place each of claims 7 and 9-11 in condition for allowance.

Claim 12 is amended to incorporate the features of claims 13 and 15, thus placing 25 claim 12 in condition for allowance. Since claims 14 and 16-17 depend from 12, each of claims 14 and 16-17 incorporate the features of claim 12. Therefore, incorporation of

claims 13 and 15 into claim 12 will also place each of claims 14 and 16-17 in condition for allowance.

Claim 22 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 23, thus placing claim 22 in condition for allowance. Since claims 24-25 depend from 22, each of claims 24-25 5 incorporate the features of claim 22. Therefore, incorporation of claim 23 into claim 22 will also place each of claims 24-25 in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 12-14, 20, 22, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being 10 unpatentable over Norton et al. ("Norton") (U.S. Patent No. 5,704,836) in view of Nguyen (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,494). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norton in view of Nguyen and further in view of Freeman (U.S. Patent No. 5,454,043) and Wilke (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0137486 A1). These rejections are respectfully 15 traversed.

Claims 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norton in view of Nguyen and further in view of Freeman. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-5, 8, 13, 15, 18-21, 23, and 26 are cancelled in the present amendment. 20 Claim 6 is amended to incorporate the features of objected claim 8. Therefore, claim 6, as-amended, and its dependent claims 7 and 9-11 are in condition for allowance. Claim 12 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 13 and objected claim 15. Therefore, claim 12, as-amended, and its dependent claims 14 and 16-17 are in condition for allowance. Claim 22 is amended to incorporate the features of objected claim 23. Therefore, claim 22, 25 as-amended, and its dependent claims 24-25 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore,

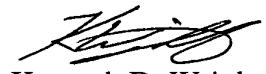
cancellation of claims 1-5, 8, 13, 15, 18-21, 23, and 26 and the amendments herein are performed in the interest of expediting issuance of a Notice of Allowance and should not be construed as an admission of the propriety of the previous rejections or acquiescence thereto.

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The Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6900 ext. 6914. If any additional fees are due in 10 connection with filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SONYP003). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

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Respectfully submitted,
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